

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00793 101804Z

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SUBJ: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT--

AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S REMARKS

1. THERE FOLLOWS REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND TO BE DELIVERED
ON OCCASION OF GOVERNING MAYOR'S RECEPTION, 25 TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT, 16:00 P.M., SATURDAY, MAY 11.

"WE CELEBRATE TODAY ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE OF
POLITICAL, LOGISTICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL FEATS. NEVER BEFORE,
AND NEVER SINCE, HAS A MAJOR CITY BEEN SOLELY DEPENDENT ON AIR
TRANSPORTATION FOR SO LONG A TIME FOR THE PRIVISION OF ALL
ITS BASIC NECESSITIES. BY ITS MEGNITUDE, THIS EFFORT
CONSTITUTED A STRONG AND CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF
THE DETERMINATION OF THE THREE POWER-- AND THE WESTERN
WORLD AS A WHOLE--TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM AND WAY OF LIFE ON THE
WESTERN SECTORS OF THE CITY. DESPITE THE IMMENSE AND FAR-
REACHING CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE INTERVENING
TWENTY-FIVER YEARS, THIS FIRM ALLIED COMMITMENT TO BERLIN
CONTINUES. FOR ALL AMERICANS THE AIRLIFT SYMBOLIZED THE
COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO SUSTAIN A SPIRIT OF
CLOSE COOPERATION WITH WESTERN EUROPE FOR THE SAKE OF
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 00793 101804Z

CITIZENS ON BOTH CONTINENTS.

"IN OBSERVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT, WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SELFLESSLY GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THIS NOBLE ENDEAVOR. THEIR SACRIFICES HAS NOT AND WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN. BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS, AND THE EFFORTS OF THE THOUSANDS OF OTHER PILOTS, CREW MEMBERS, AND PARTICIPANTS, THE SUCCESS OF THE AIRLIFT WAS ASSURED AND THE FREEDOM AND VIABILITY OF THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN PRESERVED. AND WE COMMEND THE COURAGE AND FORTITUDE OF THE MANY MORE THOUSANDS OF BERLINERS WHO ENDURED THE HARDSHIPS AND PRIVATIONS OF THOSE DARK DAYS OF 1948-1949 WITHOUT EVER LOSING CONFIDENCE OR HOPE.

"LOOKING BACK OVER THE EXPERIENCES OF THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE AIRLIFT HAS HAD A FURTHER AND PERHPAS GREATER SIGNIFICANCE. ALTHOUGH IT TOOK PLACE AT A TIME OF MOUNTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WESTERN POWERS AND WAS ASSOCIATE WITH WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE COLD WAR, THE AIRLIFT MADE POSSIBLE THE SOWING OF THE FIRST SEEDS FOR THE GENERAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND THE INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST THAT WE HAVE WITNESSED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS AND OF WHICH WE ARE ALL BENEFICIARIES. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE RESISTANCE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE EXEMPLIFIED BY THE AIRLIFT MADE IT CLEAR TO THE WORLD THAT WEST BERLIN COULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO ITS KNEES THROUGH FORCE, THREATS, OR BLACKMAIL, AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OVER BERLIN---AND OVER OTHER MATTERS-- WAS THROUGH PATIENT NEGOTIATION AND A READINESS TO ACCEPT REASONABLE COMPROMISE. THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF BERLIN, WHICH HAS BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS INTO THE LIVES OF BERLINERS, WAS THE LOGICAL CULMINATION OF A LONG AND ARDUOUS PROCESS THAT CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE HEROIC DAYS OF 1948-1949. AND THAT AGREEMENT IN TURN MADE POSSIBLE FURTHER EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSION IN EUROPE.

"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LOOK BACKWARDS ON THIS COMMEMORATION OF A GREAT HISTORICAL ENDEAVOR. WE MUST ALSO LOOK FORWARD, AND WE SHOULD LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 00793 101804Z

IN OURSELVES. IN THE DAYS OF THE AIRLIFT, VOICES OF DOUBT WERE TO BE HEARD. "IT CAN'T BE DONE" IT WAS SUGGESTED. BUT IT WAS DONE, IN A GREAT UNITED EFFORT THAT CAUGHT THE IMAGINATION OF THE WORLD. AS THEN, SO TODAY, QUESTIONS ARE POSED ABOUT BERLIN'S PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS ARE CITED--AND DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS PERSIST. REALISM IS IN ORDER. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF OUR STRENGTH. WE WOULD

DO JUSTICE TO THE ENDEAVORS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF
THE AIRLIFT BY EMULATING THEIR DEVOTION. THEY BUILT A
BRIDGE--A BRIDGE OF MACHINES AND A BRIDGE OF GOODS. BUT
THEY ALSO BUILT A BRIDGE OF FAITH AND A BRIDGE OF HOPE.
IN PURSING THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, WE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO WALK THE BRIDGE THAT THEY BUILT."

2. AMBASSADOR WILL SPEAK AFTER GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ
AND DELIVER REMARKS IN GERMAN. OTHER SPEAKERS
INCLUDE BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND WILLY
BRANDT, (LATTER IN CAPACITY AS HONORARY CITIZEN OF BERLIN).KLEIN

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